

June 27, 2008 memorandum from Chief Executive Office regarding Tele-Psychiatry - Antelope Valley Pilot

March 4, 2008 memorandum from Chief Executive Office regarding Tele-Psychiatry Motion



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

June 27, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

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TELE-PSYCHIATRY – ANTELOPE VALLEY PILOT

On February 6, 2008, on motion by Supervisor Antonovich, your Board directed the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Mental Health and the Chief Information Officer to collaborate with the Hospital Association's Behavioral Services Committee (HASC) on drafting policy and procedures that would facilitate the use of tele-psychiatry to provide prompt screening assessment and treatment in non-designated emergency departments in underserved regions; explore the possible use of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds to establish a tele-psychiatry pilot project for Palmdale or Antelope Valley Mental Health Centers (MHC), urban areas and other underserved portions of the County; and report to your Board in 30 days.

On March 4, 2008, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) reported back on the status and advised your Board of: 1) upcoming meetings with HASC to determine what policies and procedures, if any, may be necessary; 2) the determination that the State draft guidelines for use of MHSA funds allowed for tele-psychiatry projects; and 3) on-going efforts with the Chief Information Office and various stakeholders to develop a MHSA Information Technology (IT) plan and move this program forward. Tele-psychiatry projects will be included as part of this plan.

In the interim, DMH is proceeding with a Temporary Tele-psychiatric Coverage (TTC) Pilot between the Antelope Valley and DMH Headquarters which will be funded from existing non-MHSA sources. Upon State approval of the MHSA IT Plan, it is anticipated that MHSA funding will be made available for these services.

As noted by Supervisor Antonovich, tele-psychiatry is an innovative approach to provide services to rural communities. The TTC Pilot will provide tele-psychiatric services for DMH clients at the Antelope Valley MHC when a regular psychiatrist is temporarily absent.

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Each Supervisor
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The requisite technology has been obtained and installed, necessary policies and procedures are being finalized, and testing has been initiated. The TTC Pilot is expected to commence by July 1, 2008. The Department will publicize the Antelope Valley TTC Pilot, as well as the availability of other TTC projects as they become operational. In addition, DMH will provide periodic updates to your Board on these projects.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact David Seidenfeld of this office at (213) 974-1457 or dseidenfeld@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:SRH:SAS
MLM:DS:yb

c: Director, Department of Mental Health Services
Interim Chief Information Officer

Telepsy Motion_mbs

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

March 4, 2008

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Roderick Shaner, M.D.
Medical DirectorSUBJECT: **TELE-PSYCHIATRY MOTION**

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) staff has had preliminary discussions with Healthcare Association of Southern California (HASC) staff to determine respective areas of interest regarding tele-psychiatry, and will join the HASC Behavioral Health Committee (BHC) at their next scheduled meeting (April 2, 2008) to review all relevant DMH and State guidelines and policies related to tele-psychiatry and LPS regulations (involuntary detention). The materials for review will include the recently updated DMH Parameters for Tele-Psychiatric Services.

The purpose of this segment of the meeting will be to determine what additional policies and procedures, if any, are felt to be necessary in order to facilitate the use of tele-psychiatry to provide prompt screening assessment and treatment in non-designated hospital emergency departments in underserved regions. Should such additional policies and procedures be necessary, DMH and HASC will collaborate on the drafting and implementation process, with a tentative completion date of June 30, 2008. DMH will update the Board regarding the results of the meeting, workplan, and associated timelines by April 15, 2008.

DMH has determined that the State draft guidelines for use of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds allow for tele-psychiatry projects. DMH is now working on the MHSA Information Technology (IT) Plan with the CIO and various stakeholders in anticipation of the release of the final MHSA IT Plan Guidelines (anticipated by April 30, 2008) and tele-psychiatry projects will be considered as part of the planning process. In preparation for the MHSA IT planning process, DMH is proceeding with a tele-psychiatry pilot between Antelope Valley and DMH Headquarters that is funded from non-MHSA sources.

Should you have additional questions at this time, please contact me at (213) 738 4603.

RS:ebj

c: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Sheila Shima, CEO